Poor I am stale, a garment out of fashion[1]; And, for I am richer than to hang by the walls, I must be ripp'd[2]:—to pieces with me 1—O,

I met with a similar expression in one of the old comedies, but forgot to note the date or name of the piece: " — a parcel of conceited feather-caps, *whose fathers were their garments*."

STEEVENS.

In All's Well That Ends Well, we have—

«------whose judgments are
[ce] Mere *fathers of their garments.*"

MALONE. " Whose mother was her *painting,*" i. e. her likeness. HARRIS.

[1] Poor I am stale, A GARMENT OUT OF FASHION ;] This image occurs in Westward for Smelts, 1620, immediately at the conclusion of the tale on which our play is founded : " But (said the Brainford fish-wife) I like her *as a garment out of fashion.*"

STEEVENS.

[2] And, for I am RICHER than to HANG Bt" THE WALLS,

I must be ripp'd:] To " hang by the walls," does not mean, to be converted into *hangings for a room,* but to be *hung up*$_t$ as useless, among the neglected contents of a *wardrobe.* So, in Measure for Measure:

" That have, like unscour'd armour, *hung by the wall.*

When a boy, at an ancient mansion-house in Suffolk, I saw one of these repositories, which (thanks to a succession of old maids !) had been preserved, with superstitious reverence, for almost a century and a half.

Clothes were not formerly, as at present, made of slight materials, were not kept in drawers, or given away as soon as lapse of time or change of fashion had impaired their value. On the contrary, they were hung up on wooden pegs in a room appropriated to the sole purpose of receiving them; and though such cast-off things as were composed of *rich* substances, were occasionally *ripped* for domestick uses, (viz. mantles for infants, vests for children, and counterpanes for beds,) articles of inferior quality were suffered to *hang by the walls,* till age and moths had destroyed what pride would not permit to be worn by servants or poor relations.

Comitem horridulum trita donare lacerna,

seems not to have been customary among our ancestors.—When Queen Elizabeth died, she was found to have left above three thousand dresses behind her ; and there is yet in the wardrobe of Covent-Garden Theatre, a rich suit of clothes that once belonged to King James I. When I saw it last, it was$_t$ on the back of Justice Greedy, a character in Massinger's New Way to Pay Old Debts. STEEVENS.

Imogen, as Mr. Roberts suggests to me, "" alludes to the hang-